

Filled With Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:16-26 “So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.”

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Acts 8:14-17 “When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

- they had witnessed the Gospel message & power
- they had responded to the truth with belief
- they needed something more for following

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- Acts 19:1-7 *“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive?” “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.”*

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How Receiving the Holy Spirit is Portrayed in Acts

1. Experiential in every case

- effects are clearly distinguishable
- apparent need for a recognition of God's indwelling power and surrender to that
- there was expected acknowledgement and new awareness and empowering of God

2. How Luke describes this in Acts

- Holy Spirit given to people as a gift – 8:18, 5:32, 15:8, 11:17
- Bob thought – gifts are received and acknowledged

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- Holy Spirit falling upon people – 8:16, 10:44, 11:15
- Holy Spirit coming upon people – 1:8, 19:6
- Holy Spirit being poured out on people – 2:17ff, 10:45
- people receiving the Holy Spirit – 2:38, 8:15, 10:47
- being baptized in the Holy Spirit – 1:5, 11:16
- being filled with the Holy Spirit – 2:4, 9:17

* All these found in 6 instances in the book of Acts each clearly portraying the coming of Holy Spirit with experienced effects.

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1. At Pentecost – speaking in tongues, praising the mighty works of God, power to witness (1:8, 2:4,11)
2. Samaria – Simon is amazed and desires to purchase the power to make this happen (8:18)
3. Caesarea – speaking in tongues and praising God (10:46)
4. Ephesus – speaking in tongues and prophesying (19:6)
5. Paul's conversion – boldness and empowering to witness (9:17,22)
6. Luke says God 'gave the Holy Spirit to everyone who is obeying him' – ability for obedience (5:32)

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- in every case definite effects one can point to as evidence
 - speaking in tongues
 - prophesying
 - freely praising the great things of God
 - boldness & power in witness
 - obedience to God
 - signs, miracles and wonders (6:8, 13:9-11)
- there is no promise all will speak in tongues or prophesy, but there is promise of power to evangelize the whole world (Acts 1:8) made to all who receive.

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- Acts reveals what this power looks like as it comes on different groups:

- speaking in tongues – 2:4, 10:46, 19:6

- gift of prophecy – 2:17, 19:6, 10:46

- free and overflowing praise of God's greatness – 2:11, 10:46

- obedience to the commands of God – 5:32

- courage, boldness of witness – 2:14-35, 9:17-22

- workings of various gifts – Heb. 2:4

- miracles , signs and wonders – Gal. 3:5, Acts 6:9

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So What

1. Did you receive the Holy Spirit at the time of Belief?

- experience and evidence – fruit of Spirit
- seen by humble obedience, ability to praise freely and worship filling my heart for my Lord
- seen by courage, the ability for word and life to witness to the truth of the gospel
- recognizing the gifts for the edification of the body, used and empowered
- experiencing the wonder of God's work supernaturally in the physical realm

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2. Do I desire to Surrender myself to a Filling of God

- stake the time and day
- declare a dependence on His empowering work
- die to flesh desires and walk in new power for living

3. Reflect on The How

- asking for prayer
- confessing any barrier
- receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit
- determining to walk in that power